



PATENT APPLICATION

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6/22/04

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Yoshitaka SASAKI

Group Art Unit: 2652

Application No.: 09/888,504

Examiner: A. Cao

Filed: June 26, 2001

Docket No.: 109764

For: THIN FILM MAGNETIC HEAD AND THE MANUFACTURING METHOD

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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Technology Center 2600

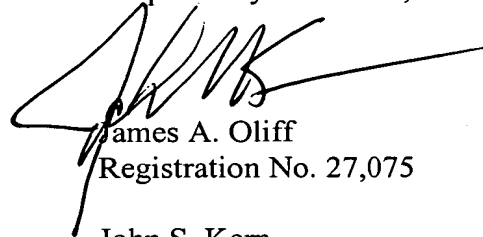
Sir:

In reply to the June 1, 2004 Restriction Requirement, Applicant provisionally elects Group I, claims 1-18, drawn to a thin film magnetic head apparatus, classified in class 360, subclass 126, with traverse.

It is also respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all claims 1-43 is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one Group of claims would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions" (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicant and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Thus, withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:JSK/kap

Date: June 17, 2004

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